



**NB-30**

**Date:** May 2, 2006  
**To:** Mayor and Members of the City Council  
**From:** Bonnie Lowenthal, First District Councilmember *BL*  
**Subject:** **Opposition to SB 1507 (Margett): MTA Board Change**

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Senator Bob Margett has introduced SB 1507, a bill that would disrupt the fair, equitable and carefully balanced structure of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority's (MTA) Board of Directors. This bill recently passed the Senate Transportation and Housing Committee and could be heard on the Senate floor as early as next week.

The current MTA Board structure described in Section 130051 of the Public Utilities Code (PUC) was approved by the Legislature and the Governor after significant debate and regional input. As changes to the MTA board can be extremely disruptive and detrimental to the organization's main mission of managing the County's transportation needs, I and many others believe that any change to the board must involve a regional solution stemming from either the League of California Cities L.A. County Division or from a broad-based coalition of cities.

This process ensures that the solution has regional support from all agencies that are heavily affected by MTA decisions and allows those communities to explore and debate potential impacts. SB 1507 represents a top-down approach driven from Sacramento rather than a bottoms-up approach driven by the region and its cities.

I ask my colleagues' support to join me in opposing SB 1507.

**Recommendation:**

Due to the time sensitive nature of this bill, it is recommended that the City Council direct the City Manager to formally oppose the proposed legislation as well as any other bills that would restructure the MTA Board of Directors without a local consensus.